UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,194	09/08/2003	Hisayasu Nakao	1046.1299	8380

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EXAMINER
HAMZA, FARUK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2455	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/656,194	NAKAO, HISAYASU
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FARUK HAMZA	2455	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 May 2009</u>.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1,3-12,14,16-27,29-38,40,42-53,55-64,66,68-78 and 101-104_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _23-26,49-52,75-78 and 101-104_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) _1, 3-12, 14, 16-22, 40, 42-48, 53, 55-64, 66 and 68-74_ is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 April 2009</u> is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to the RCE filed on May 20, 2009. Claims 1, 3-

12, 14, 16, 18-22, 27, 29-31, 33-34, 36, 40, 42, 44-45, 47-48, 53, 55-57, 59-60,

62, 66, 68, 70-71 and 73-74 have been amended. Claims 2, 13, 15, 28, 39, 41,

54, 65, 67 and 79-100 were previously canceled. Claims 23-26, 49-52, 75-78 and

101-104 were previously withdrawn. The applicant is respectfully requested to

cancel the withdrawn claims. Claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-27, 29-38, 40, 42-53, 55-64,

66, 68-78 and 101-104 are pending.

Examiner's Note

2.   The use of intended use clauses have been noted in the claims (i.e

"configured to"). Applicant is advised that such terminology may render some

limitation optional.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

          The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-22, 27, 29-38, 40, 42-48, 53, 55-64, 66 and 68-74

are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kubik et al. (U.S.

Patent Number 6,775,691) hereinafter referred as Kubik.

As to claim 1, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system for

managing a forward destination of an E-mail, the E-mail management system

including a processor, the processor programmed to execute :

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address

corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address

and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address

(abstract); and

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to

which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending a

test mail to the forward destination address and receiving a response to the test

mail (abstract, Column 1, lines 55-64, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30),

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response

contains a predetermined data string or not (Column 7, lines 47-55).

As to claim 3, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to

claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute: commanding a sending

device to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and communicating

with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail, wherein said

confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by

the response received by said receiving device (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 4, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, further programmed to execute: registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address if the confirmation proved successful; and forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address, when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 5, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, communicating with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, wherein said confirming unit commands if the confirmation proved successful, said mail server to register the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address via said communication unit (abstract, Column 1, lines 55-64).

As to claim 6, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 2, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 7, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirmation confirming includes sending test mails

respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and confirming responses to these two test mails (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 8, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 4, the processor further programmed to execute: registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is with in a predetermined range, and registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation by said confirming unit proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 9, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying unit notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 10, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 4, wherein said confirming unit confirms a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and said forward control unit suspends forwarding to the forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the

elapse of the predetermined period of time (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 11, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 5, wherein said communication unit receives a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and said confirming unit confirms the validity of this forward destination address (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 12, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising an information providing unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not the response conforms with the response step (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 14, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system cooperating with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system comprising a processor programmed to execute:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30); and

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward

destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is

forwarded, wherein the confirming includes sending a test mail and making a

validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response to the test

mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the

response contains a predetermined data string or not (abstract, Column 7, lines

55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 16, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to

claim 14, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending

device sending a test mail to the forward destination, wherein said command unit

commands said sending device to send the test mail to the forward destination

address via said communication unit and has the validity of the forward

destination address confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server

from the receipt address (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 17, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to

claim 16, wherein said sending device is said mail server (abstract).

As to claim 18, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to

claim 14, wherein said command unit issues a command of sending test mails

respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and

makes said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails

(abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 19, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 16, wherein said communication unit receives a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and said command unit issues the command of confirming the validity of this forward destination address (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 20, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 14, further comprising an information disclosure unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 21, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address (Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

As to claim 22, Kubik teaches an E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address (abstract, Column 7, lines 55-Column 8, lines 30).

Claims 29-38, 40, 42-48, 53, 55-64, 66 and 68-74 do not teach or define any new limitations other than above claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16-22. Therefore, claims 29-38, 40, 42-48, 53, 55-64, 66 and 68-74 are rejected for similar reasons.

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the

new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is

571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through

Friday.

          If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

          Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from

the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more

information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll –free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2455

/Faruk Hamza/

Examiner, Art Unit 2455